UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 2 5 2016

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL 7009 1680 0000 7663 5806
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Dr. Shirish Shah
Quality Control Manager
Omega Plating, Inc.
4704 West 137th Street
Crestwood, Illinois 60445

Re: Notice of Violation
Omega Plating, Inc.
EPA ID No.: ILD 018 260 075

Dear Dr. Shah:

On September 6, 2013 representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) inspected the Omega Plating, Inc. (hereinafter, "Omega") facility located at 4704 West 137th Street in Crestwood, Illinois. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate Omega's compliance with certain provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); specifically, those regulations related to the generation, treatment and storage of hazardous waste. We have enclosed a copy of our inspection report for your reference.

Based on information provided by Omega, review of records, and personal observations made by the inspectors at the time of the inspection, EPA has determined that Omega is in violation of certain requirements of the Illinois Administrative Code (IAC) and United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

To be eligible for the exemption from having a hazardous waste storage permit, Omega must be in compliance with the conditions of 35 IAC § 722.134(a) and (c) [40 CFR § 262.34(a) and (c)]. We find that Omega was in noncompliance with the following conditions for a hazardous waste storage permit exemption and was in violation of the following requirements:

1. In order to avoid the need for a hazardous waste storage permit, a generator must comply with the requirements for owners and operators found at 35 IAC § 725.116, pursuant to 35 IAC § 722.134(a)(4) [40 CFR § 262.34(a)(4)]. This includes the need to ensure that facility personnel successfully complete a program of classroom instructions or on-the-job training, within six months of their date of employment or to assignment to a new position at the facility, that teaches them to perform their duties in a way that ensures the facility's compliance with the personnel training requirements found at 35 IAC § 725.116 [40 CFR § 265.16]; take part in an annual review of their initial training and that training records on current personnel be kept until

closure of the facility. This further includes that certain records pertaining to employee positions related to hazardous waste management at the facility be maintained until closure of the facility for current employees or for at least three years after the date of separation for former employees. See, 35 IAC § 725.116(b) and (c) and 35 IAC § 725.116(d) and (e), respectively [40 CFR § 265.16(b) and (c) and 40 CFR § 265.16(d) and (e), respectively].

At the time of the September 6, 2013 inspection, Omega could not produce documentation of initial (*i.e.*, within six months of hire or reassignment) training or annual review of the initial training for its employees dating back to year 2007.

Omega, therefore, failed to comply with the above-mentioned condition for a hazardous waste storage permit exemption, and violated the personnel training requirements.

2. In order to avoid the need for a hazardous waste storage permit, a generator must comply with the requirements for owners and operators found at Subpart I of 35 IAC § 725 [40 C.F.R. Part 265, Subpart I] pursuant to 35 IAC § 722.134(a)(1)(i) [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(a)(1)(i)]. Owners and operators of storage facilities must inspect, at least weekly, areas where hazardous waste containers are stored. See, 35 IAC § 725.274 [40 C.F.R. § 265.174].

At the time of the September 6, 2013 inspection, Omega could not produce weekly hazardous waste container inspection records.

Omega therefore failed to comply with the above-mentioned conditions for a hazardous waste storage permit exemption, and violated the hazardous waste container inspection requirement.

3. In order to avoid the need for a hazardous waste storage permit, a generator must comply with the requirements for owners and operators found at Subpart I of 35 IAC § 725 [40 C.F.R. Part 265, Subpart I], pursuant to 35 IAC § 722.134(a)(1)(A) [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(a)(1)(i)]. Owners and operators of storage facilities must keep closed, containers holding hazardous waste except when it is necessary to add or remove waste to the container. See, 35 IAC § 725.273(a) [40 C.F.R. § 265.173(a)].

At the time of the September 6, 2013 inspection, the EPA inspector observed one open container which held filter press sludge (F006 waste). Said container was partially covered with a piece of cardboard and the cardboard, which served as a makeshift lid, was not secured.

Omega therefore failed to comply with the above-mentioned conditions for a hazardous waste storage permit exemption, and violated the hazardous waste container use and management requirement.

4. A large quantity generator that accumulates hazardous waste on-site and does not meet the conditions for a hazardous waste permit exemption of 35 IAC § 722.134 [40 CFR § 262.34] is an operator of a hazardous waste storage facility, and is required to obtain an Illinois hazardous waste storage permit. See, 35 IAC §§ 703.121(a) and (b); 703.180(c); and 705.121(a) [40 CFR §§ 270.1(c), and 270.10(a) and (d)]. Upon failing to meet the conditions for a hazardous waste permit exemption identified in item number 1 through 3 above, Omega became an operator of a

hazardous waste storage facility. Omega has not applied for or received a hazardous waste storage permit nor does Omega have interim status. Omega's failure to apply for and obtain a hazardous waste storage permit violated the permitting requirements of 35 IAC §§ 703.121(a) and (b); 703.180(c); and 705.121(a) [40 CFR §§ 270.1(c), and 270.10(a) and (d)].

At this time, EPA is not requiring Omega to apply for a hazardous waste storage permit, so long as it immediately establishes compliance with the conditions for an exemption outlined above. Under Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), EPA may issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation and requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time period. Although this letter is not such an order, you are hereby requested to submit a response in writing to this office no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter documenting the actions, if any, which have been taken since the inspection to establish compliance with the above conditions and requirements.

You should submit your response to Michael Valentino, EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, LR-8J, Chicago, Illinois 60604. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Valentino, of my staff, at (312) 886-4582.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Victorine, Chief
RCRA Branch

Enclosure

cc: Todd Marvel, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (w/ enclosure)
(todd.marvel@Illinois.gov)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604

COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT

MEMORANDUM TO FILE

INSTALLATION NAME:	Omega Plating, Inc.
U.S. EPA ID No.:	ILD 018 260 075
LOCATION ADDRESS:	4704 W. 137th Street Crestwood, IL 60445
NAICS CODES:	332813 (Electroplating, Plating, Polishing, Anodizing and Coloring)
DATE OF INSPECTION:	September 6, 2013
EPA INSPECTOR:	Michael Valentino

PREPARED BY: Michael Valentino — 15 August 2014

Michael Valentino,
Environmental Engineer — Date

REVIEWED BY: 8/18/14

Michael Cunningham, Chief
Compliance Section 1
RCRA Branch — Date

Purpose of Inspection:

The purpose of the inspection was to perform an unannounced compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) at Omega Plating, Inc., a large quantity generator of hazardous waste, to determine its compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, specifically the Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous Waste, Standards for Land Disposal Restrictions, and Management of Used Oil set forth at 35 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC), Title 35: Environmental Protection, Subtitle G: Waste Disposal, Chapter I: Pollution Control Board, and Title 40 of Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) Parts 262 to 265, 268 and 279, respectively.

Participants:

Dr. Shirish Shah, Quality Control Manager (708-389-5410), Sagar Patel, Production Manager (708-389-5410; spatel31@gmail.com), and Mike Patel (retired, former president), represented Omega Plating, Inc. Michael Valentino represented U.S. EPA Region 5, Land and Chemicals Division, RCRA Branch. Calvin Harris, Environmental Protection Specialist with the Bureau of Land (847-294-4080), represented the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Installation Description:

Omega Plating, Inc. is a small electroplating facility, occupying approximately 12,000 square feet in a single-level brick and corrugated metal building located just east of Cicero Avenue (Route 50) and about two-thirds of a mile west of the Northwest Tollway (I-294) on 137th Street in a primarily commercial-industrial area of Crestwood, Illinois.

Omega Plating, Inc. employs silver, nickel copper and nickel plating, and electro-less plating. Omega Plating, Inc. uses cyanide in its plating operations (silver cyanide and copper cyanide). Omega Plating, Inc. plates bus bars, switchgears and transformers.

Omega Plating, Inc. generates several waste streams at this facility: wastewater treatment sludge carrying waste code F006; spent zincate solution carrying waste code D002; waste copper and silver rinses carrying waste code D011; waste nitric stripper solution carrying waste code D002 and D011; waste acid tin plating solution carrying waste code D002.

Hazardous waste generated at the facility is sent to Envirite of Illinois in nearby Harvey, Illinois.

Since cyanide is used in the plating process, Omega Plating, Inc. treats plating wastewater with hypochlorite (HCl^-). Wastewater is also adjusted to a pH of roughly 9.0 before being discharged to an outfall. Plant effluent is regulated under Discharge Authorization No. 13124.4, issued by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Omega Plating, Inc. has 12 employees. Omega Plating, Inc. operates one shift, from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Opening Conference:

I met Inspector Harris in Omega Plating, Inc.'s parking lot at 8:45 am CDT. We then proceeded inside where we met Dr. Shah and Sagar Patel (Mike Patel would arrive later). I displayed my enforcement credentials and introductions were made. We proceeded to Dr. Shah's office.

I informed Dr. Shah and Mr. Patel of the nature of our visit that day. Inspector Harris mentioned that he was there to accompany me on the EPA-lead inspection. I explained to Dr. Shah and Mr. Patel that I wanted to tour the facility and observe any areas where hazardous waste was generated or stored and that I would want to review documents. I then described to him what documents I would want to review. I informed Dr. Shah and Mr. Patel that I would take photos during the course of the inspection and asked that he alert me to anything Omega Plating, Inc. considered to be proprietary and I would make efforts to avoid getting such process equipment in the photo.

Prior to reviewing records, Inspector Harris and I were given a general overview of operations (some of the information is contained above, "Installation Description").

Wastewater is treated by chlorination to destroy cyanide, adjusted for pH, enters a filter press for removal of solids and then is further polished by passing through a sand filter before being discharged to the sewer.

Records Review:

At the conclusion of the opening meeting, Inspector Harris and I reviewed manifests and annual reports for years 2011-2013.

We toured the facility after reviewing the manifests and annual reports, and upon completion of the walk-through we returned to complete the records review.

Omega Plating, Inc. maintains manifest onsite for a period of at least three years. At the time of the inspection there had only been one shipment of hazardous waste for calendar year 2013. The manifest summary is presented below. The summary of waste generation for years 2010-2012 (reports submitted to IEPA in 2011-2013) is also presented below.

Hazardous Waste Manifests

We reviewed hazardous waste manifests from 2011 through 2013. Manifests were filled out properly, and signed copies from the destination facilities were returned to Omega Plating, Inc. within 35 days of shipment.

Manifest no. 010326433JJK, from June 12, 2013, documented shipment of four waste streams to Envirite of Illinois.

MANIFEST NO.	WASTE STREAM	WASTE CODE	QUANTITY SHIPPED	DATE GENERATOR SIGNED	DATE TSDF SIGNED	RECEIVING FACILITY
010326433JJK	Sludge from wastewater treatment of electroplating waste	F006	2 cubic yards (2 fabric bags)	6/12/13 (Shirish Shah)	6/12/13	Envirite of Illinois ILD000666206 Harvey, IL
	Waste silver rinses	F006, D011	450 gal (9 fiber drums)			
	Hydrochloric acid	D002	400 gal (8 fiber drums)			
	Nitric acid, sulfuric acid	D002	200 gal (4 fiber drums)			

Annual Hazardous Waste Reports

I asked for and received the three most current annual reports. The three reports were dated February 10, 2011; February 28, 2012; and February 18, 2013 for waste generated in calendar years 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The 2010 and 2012 annual reports were signed by Dr. Shah. The 2011 annual report was signed by Sagar Patel. The annual reports identified Omega Plating Inc.'s NAICS code as 332813.

The following waste streams were shipped offsite during the above reporting years.

REPORTING YEAR →	2010	2011	2012
WASTE STREAMS AND WASTE CODES ↓			
Filter cake from WWT of electroplating process water (F006)	2 cubic yd 9.9 lb/gal	2 cubic yd 9.9 lb/gal	5 cubic yd 9.9 lb/gal
Spent zincate solution (D002)	330 gal 11.88 lb/gal	--	660 gal 11.88 lb/gal
Waste copper and silver rinses (F006, D011)	--	220 gal 8.35 lb/gal	185 gal 8.35 lb/gal
Nitric stripper solution (D002, D011)	--	--	220 gal 12.0 lb/gal
Waste acid tin plating solution (D002)	--	2506 gal 9.0 lb/gal	--
RECEIVING FACILITY	Envirite of Illinois ILD000666206 Harvey, Illinois	Envirite of Illinois ILD000666206 Harvey, Illinois	Envirite of Illinois ILD000666206 Harvey, Illinois
Total waste generated in reporting year[1]	3600 kg	12,905 kg	10,010 kg
Average waste generated per month in reporting year	300 kg	1075 kg	834 kg

[1] Calculations based on these conversions: 27 ft^3/yd^3; 2.2 lb/kg; and 7.48 gal/ft^3.

According to 35 IAC § 721.131 [40 CFR § 261.31], F006 is a listed hazardous waste consisting of wastewater treatment sludges from certain electroplating operations including those employed by Omega Plating, Inc. According to 35 IAC § 721.122 [40 CFR § 261.22], D002 is hazardous waste on the basis of the characteristic of corrosivity. According to 35 IAC § 721.124 [40 CFR § 261.24], D011 is a characteristic hazardous waste on the basis of the toxicity characteristic for the TCLP[2] regulatory level for silver. According to 35 IAC § 722.134 [40 CFR § 262.34], which defines a large quantity generator as a generator who, in a calendar month, generates 1,000 kg of hazardous waste or more, Omega Plating, Inc. operated as a large quantity generator of hazardous waste in 2011. For 2010, Omega Plating, Inc. may have fallen below the LQG threshold since the annual waste generated was 3600 kg. Based on 2013 waste generation at the time of the inspection, Omega Plating, Inc. was operating slightly above the LQG threshold.[3]

Facility Inspection and Observations:

Messrs. Patel, Shah, Patel, Inspector Harris and I began the site walk-through just before 10:00 CDT. During the course of the walk-through, I took five (5) photographs on a Nikon Coolpix® P4 digital camera with 8.1 megapixel resolution between 9:59 am and 10:31am CDT on September 6, 2013. These photos are true and representative of the conditions I observed at the installation on the date of the CEI.

We began the site tour in the wastewater treatment area. There I observed a below grade pit were process wastewaters enter and are treated using HCl^- to destroy cyanide. (Photo 1.)

We then toured the plating area. Plating tanks are underlain with secondary containment consisting of steel berms and concrete containment and collection pits. (Photo 2.) I observed no standing liquids in the secondary containment on the day of the inspection.

I observed a plate-and-frame filter press, which removes solids from treated process wastewaters. (Photo 5.) The filter press sludge is managed as a listed hazardous waste from a non-specific source (waste code F006).

A container situated directly beneath the filter press is used to transport filtered solids to one-cubic yard fabric bags for transferring filter press sludge to the designated facility. (Photo 5; also Photo 3.) One such transfer container was labeled and partially filled with filter cake (F006). (Photo 3.) Said container had a piece of cardboard covering it. Because spillage could still potentially occur, the container was not determined to be in a

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[2] Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) measures leachable concentrations of metals and organics in non-aqueous media. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 261.24 Table 1 – MAXIMUM CONCENTRATION OF CONTAMINANTS FOR THE TOXICITY CHARACTERISTIC. The Federal regulations establish maximum leachate concentrations for eight metals and 32 organic compounds. EPA Publication SW-846 establishes Method 1311 as the extraction procedure for the analysis. Where samples contain < 0.5% filterable solids, the filtered sample is considered to be the extract for purposes of analysis.

[3] Based on estimates by the author relying upon information in manifest no. 010326433JJK (see above) and using known waste stream density or literature search.

closed condition. At the time of the inspection filter press sludge was not being added to the container, nor was it being removed into a fabric tote bag for offsite transport.

We continued touring the process wastewater treatment area. I observed a sand-filled vessel for final polishing (removal of particulate) and a tank in which effluent is adjusted to permitted pH limits. (Photo 4.)

We concluded the tour by observing the filter press. (Photo 5.)

During the course of the walk-though, I noted that fire extinguishers in the plant are serviced annually by Advance Fire & Safety (Burbank, IL), and the last date of service had been December 2012.

Photo 1 DSCN2576 2848 KB	Omega Plating, Inc. 4704 W. 137th Street Crestwood, IL 60445
9/6/13 9:59 am Taken by: Michael Valentino	Description: Wastewater treatment area. Sub-floor collection pit. Here the pH is adjusted to 9.0 and cyanide destruction with hypochlorite takes place.

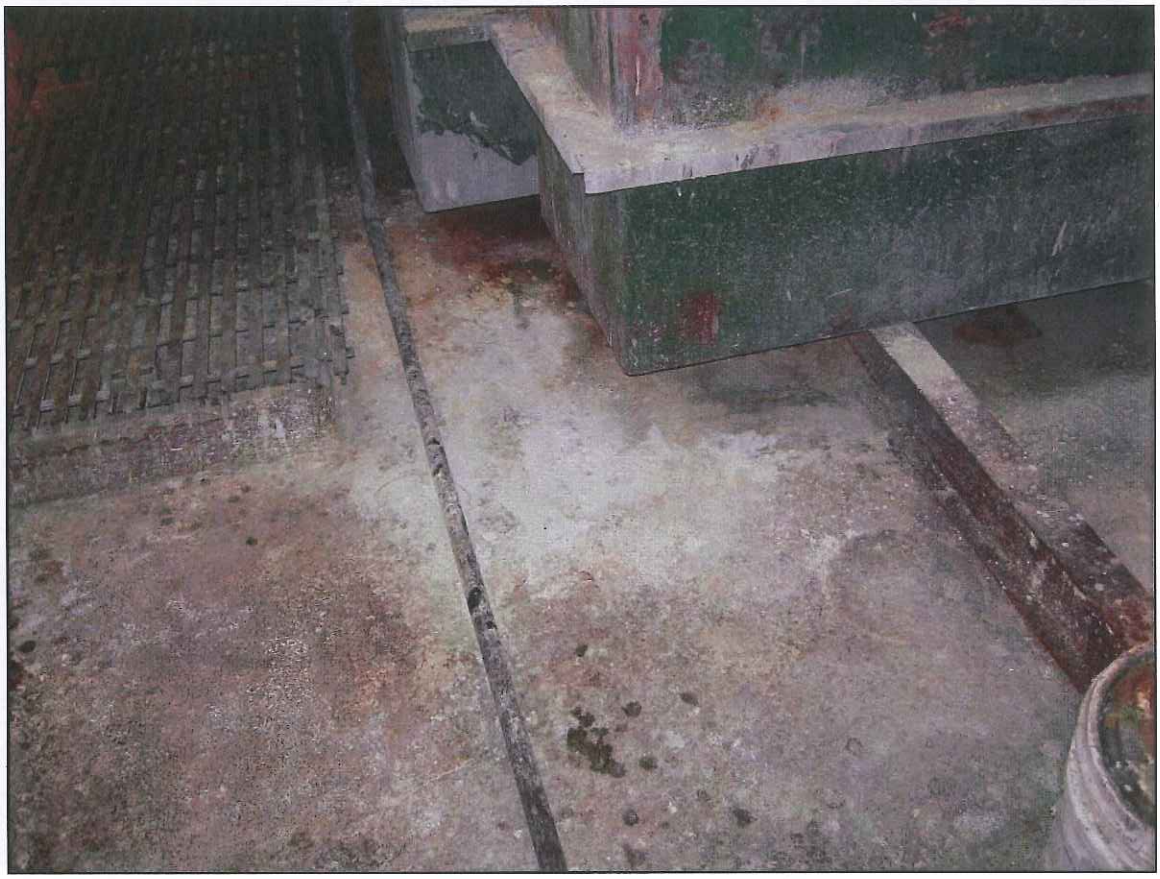

Photo 2 DSCN2577 3391 KB	Omega Plating, Inc. 4704 W. 137th Street Crestwood, IL 60445
9/6/13 9:59 am Taken by: Michael Valentino	Description: Plating area. Floor condition beneath plating line.

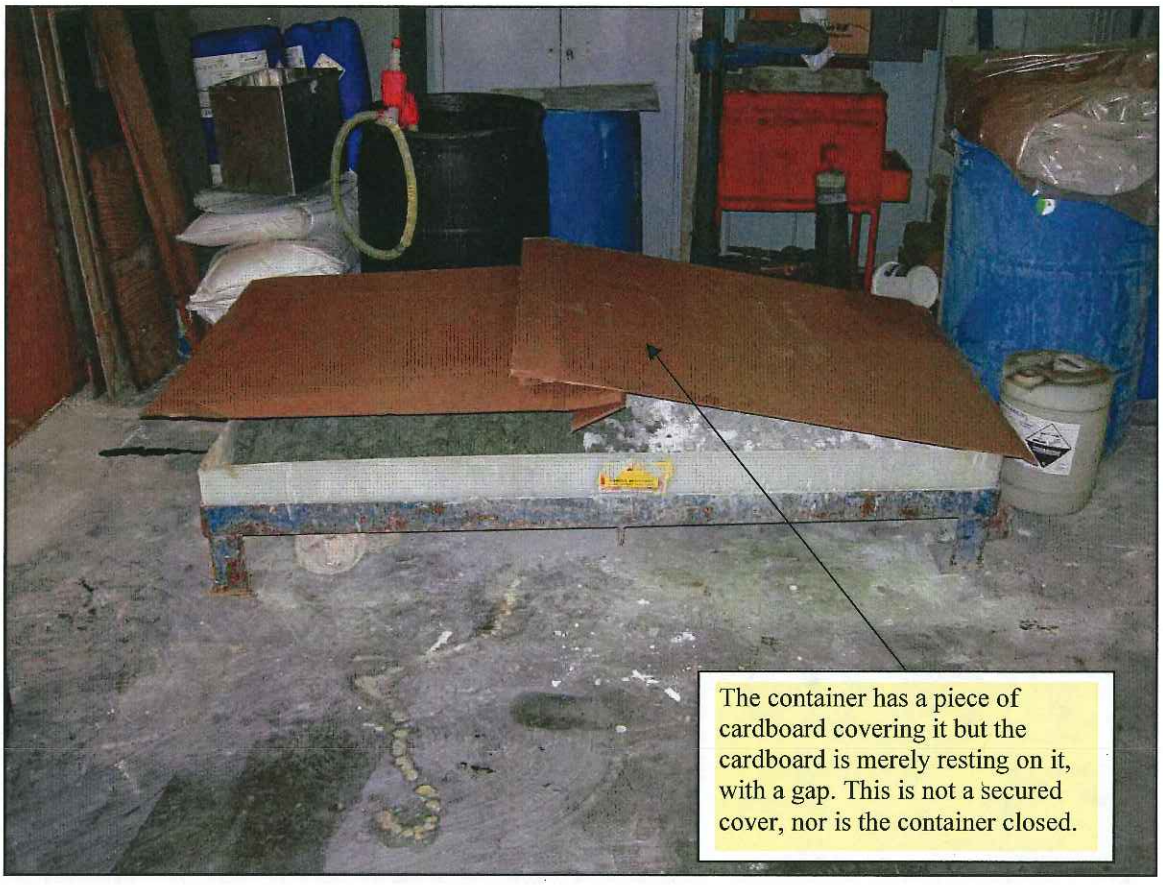

Photo 3 DSCN2578 3834 KB	Omega Plating, Inc. 4704 W. 137th Street Crestwood, IL 60445
9/6/13 10:20 am Taken by: Michael Valentino	Description: Wastewater treatment area. Wastewater treatment sludge (carries waste code F006) container. Container has proper hazardous waste label. Container is covered with cardboard, but not closed.

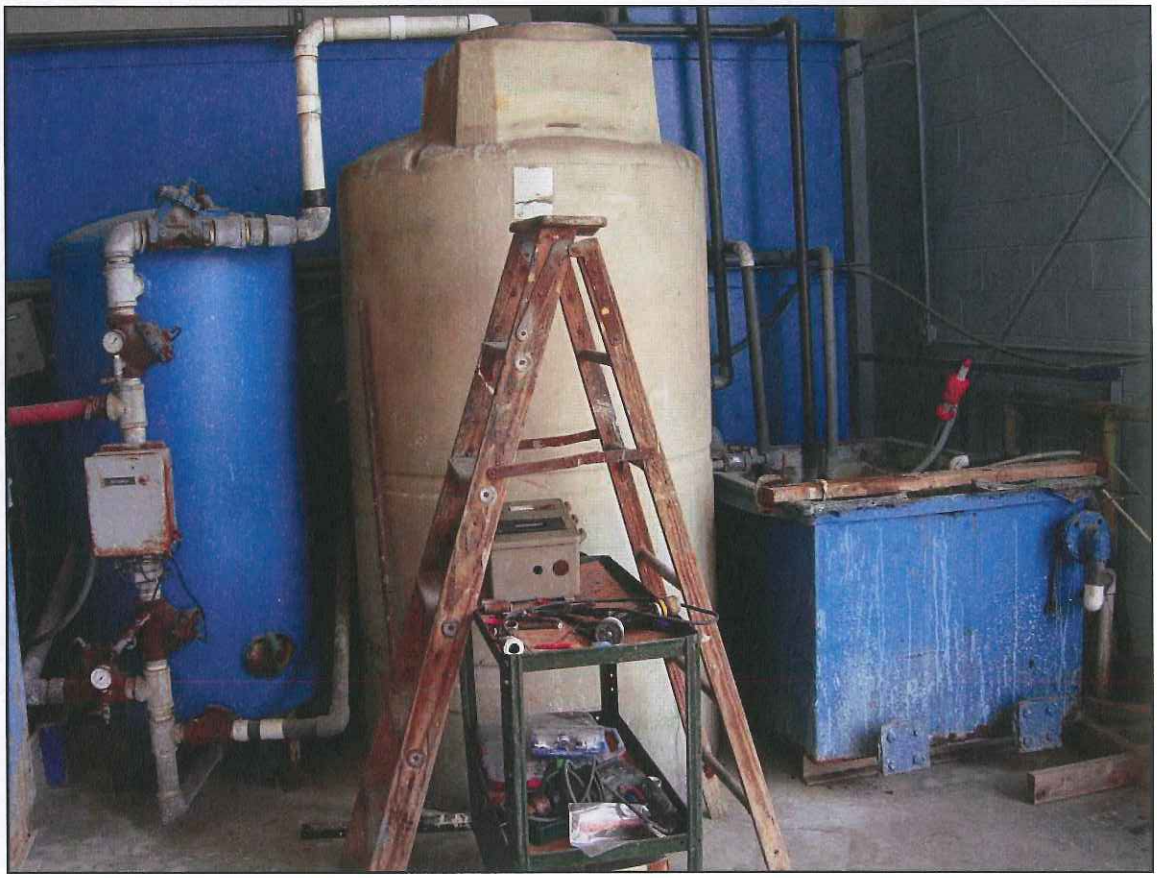

Photo 4 DSCN2579 2604 KB	Omega Plating, Inc. 4704 W. 137th Street Crestwood, IL 60445
9/6/13 10:30 am Taken by: Michael Valentino	Description: Wastewater treatment area. Blue tank to left of photo is sand filter; white tank in center of photo is pH adjustment tank.

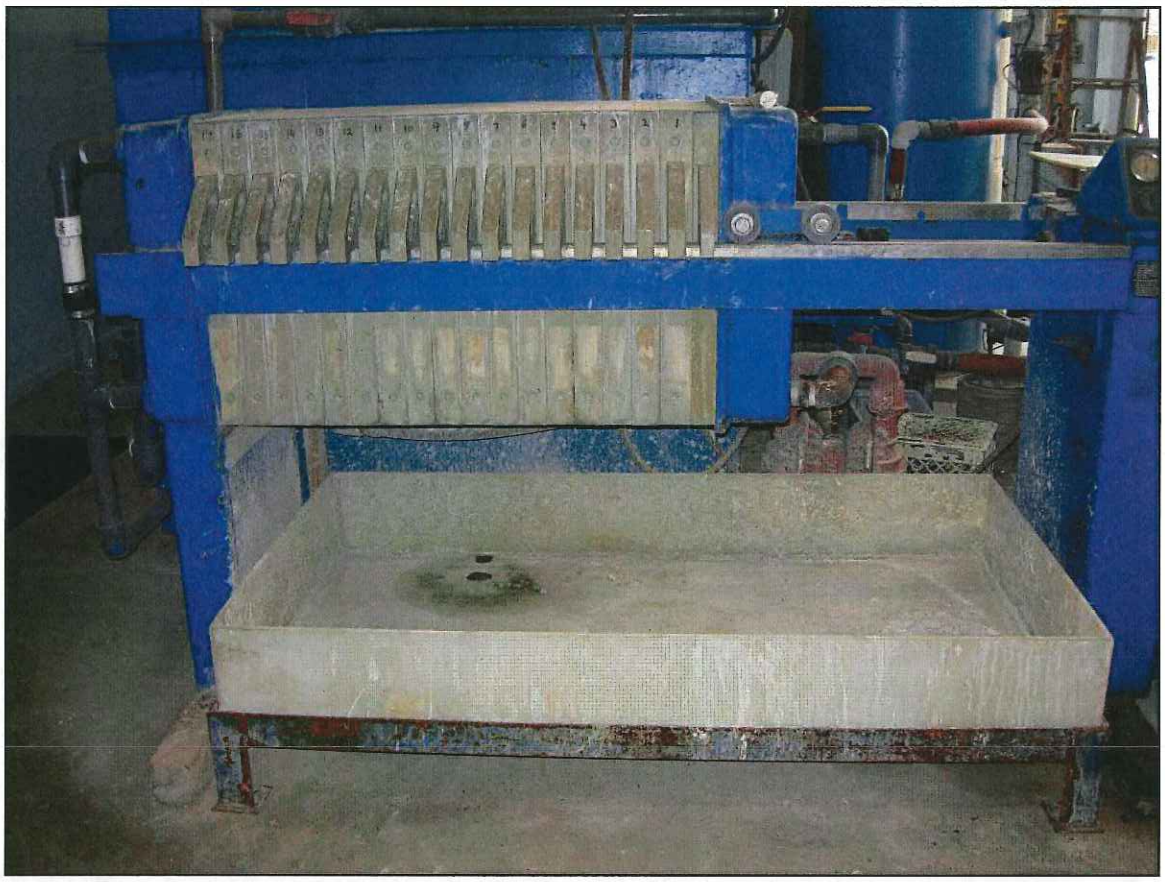

Photo 5 DSCN2580 3536 KB	Omega Plating, Inc. 4704 W. 137th Street Crestwood, IL 60445
9/6/13 10:31 am Taken by: Michael Valentino	Description: Wastewater treatment area. Plate-and-frame filter press. Empty wastewater treatment sludge container rests beneath the filter press.

When we completed the brief site walk-through we returned to the office area where Inspector Harris and I continued our review of Omega Plating, Inc.'s RCRA-related documents.

Contingency Plan

I reviewed Omega Plating, Inc.'s contingency plan and commented to Messrs. Patel, Shah and Patel that the plan describes evacuation routes in case of an emergency but the plan would better serve its purposes if Omega Plating, Inc. included a map depicting primary and alternate evacuation routes. I also noted that the emergency spill notification number for EPA was outdated. I found that the contingency plan contained the major elements as required by 35 IAC § 725.152 [40 CFR § 265.52].

Weekly Inspection Logs

Omega Plating, Inc. could not produce weekly container inspection logs.

RCRA Training

Omega Plating, Inc. provides OSHA, hazard communication (HAZCOM) and ISO 9001 training to its employees but review of training records dating back to 2007 revealed that the Company has not provided RCRA-related training to its employees.

We completed review of the above documents shortly before noon.

Exit Conference:

I presented Messrs. Patel, Shah and Patel with my initial findings, pointing out to them Omega Plating, Inc.'s failure to conduct RCRA training and conduct weekly container inspections.

Before leaving, I presented Mr. Sagar Patel with copies of the Region 5 Pollution Prevention (P2) contact information and State Agency P2 contact information fact sheet and the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC) brochure entitled, "SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS – A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR ILLINOIS INDUSTRY."

Inspector Harris and I left the site at approximately 12:00 pm.